

should go forward without any voice from collective Europe if it were disposed to speak."

That a wrong committed in the international field would produce evil effects was as much part of Gladstone's political philosophy as of his Christian faith. "It seems to me by no means impossible," he wrote prophetically to Henry Reeve, Editor of the *Edinburgh Review* "that those little provinces may be the central hinge on which for long years the history of Europe may virtually depend." To Granville he wrote even, more pointedly. "I have an apprehension that this violent laceration and transfer is to lead us from bad to worse, and to be the beginning of a new series of European complications."

When the peace terms confirmed his apprehensions he wrote to Max Müller: "I am afraid that Germany, crowned with glory and confident in her strength, will start on her new career to encounter the difficulties of the future without the sympathies of Europe, which in my opinion no nation, not even we in our sea-girt spot, can afford to lose."

Gladstone was never Foreign Minister, and he did not need to make England as Bismarck had to make Germany. But for almost half a century he laboured to raise the standard of conduct among the governments of Europe, from his censure of Palmerston in 1850 and his denunciation of the Neapolitan prisons in 1851 to his crusade against the Bulgarian and Armenian atrocities of his closing years. He was filled with the conviction that we are all members one of another and that the jurisdiction of conscience does not cease at the frontier. Though the vision of a League of Nations was beyond his range, the spiritual foundations of the edifice are clearly discoverable in his speeches and writings. In the era of Imperialism which, so far as England is concerned, is now at an

end, it was the fashion to scoff at Gkdstone,
Cobden and Bright
as doctrinaires without red blood in their veins.
Like other
great Victorians their time will come again, for
they preached
die saving gospel of an interdependent world.

The war of 1914 was the child of the
European anarchy.
Before a decision was in sight, President'
Wilson made the
most determined and comprehensive attempt
recorded in
history to reconcile politics and morals. Alone
of the eight
Great Powers the United States held aloof,
hoping that it
might remain neutral to the end. The humane
and peace-
loving Professor in the White House shared that
aspiration to
the full, incurring abuse by his declaration at
a moment of